What is claimed is:

## 1. A compound of the formula IV:

$$K^{1} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} R^{1} & R^{2} \\ (CH_{2})_{n} & (CH_{2})_{4} \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{IV}} O-W$$

10 wherein:

n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4;

 $K^1$  selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_2OH$ , -C(O)OH, -CHO,  $-C(O)OR^5$ ,  $-OC(O)R^5$ ,  $-SO_3H$ ,

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 $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group and  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group, with the proviso that none of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is  $-(CH_2)_{0-4}C \equiv CH$ ;

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R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl,

## (C2-C6)alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl;

each  $R^6$  is independently selected from the group consisting of H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, and  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl; and

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W is selected from the group consisting of H and a hydroxy protecting group.

## 2. A compound of the formula V:

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$$R^3$$
 $R^4$ 
 $(CH_2)_m$ 
 $(CH_2)_4$ 
 $(CH_3)_4$ 

V

wherein:

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m is an integer ranging from 1 to 4;

 $K^2$  selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_2OH$ , -C(O)OH, -CHO,  $-C(O)OR^5$ ,  $-OC(O)R^5$ ,  $-SO_3H$ ,

 $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group and  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group, with the proviso that none of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is  $-(CH_2)_{0-4}C \equiv CH$ ;

 $R^5$  is selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$  alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$  alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$  alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl;

each R<sup>6</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, and  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl; and

Hal is selected from the group consisting of chloro, bromo, and iodo.

3. A method for synthesizing a compound of a formula II:

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HO 
$$CH_2$$
  $CH_2$   $CH_2$ 

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comprising: (a) contacting in the presence of a base a compound of a formula XXIV:

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**XXIV** 

with a compound of a formula XXVIII

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PG-O 
$$CH_2$$
  $CH_2$   $X$ 

**XXVIII** 

to provide a compound of a formula XXIX

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$$R^{1}$$
  $R^{2}$   $CH_{2}$   $CH_$ 

XXIX

and; (b) deprotecting the compound of the formula XXIX to provide the compound of the formula II, wherein:

- $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group and  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group, with the proviso that none of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is  $-(CH_2)_{0-4}C=CH$ ; and
- 10 PG is a hydroxy protecting group.
  - 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the compound of the formula XXIV is contacted with the compound of the formula XXVIII in the further presence of an organic solvent.

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- 5. The method of claim 3, where in PG is selected from the group consisting of methyl, methoxy methyl, methylthiomethyl, methoxyethoxymethyl, *bis*(2-chloroethoxy)methyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydrothiofuranyl, 1-ethoxyethyl, 1-methyl-1-methoxyethyl, t-butyl, allyl, benzyl, *o*-nitrobenzyl, triphenylmethyl, α-naphthyldiphenylmethyl, *p*-methoxyphenyldiphenylmethyl, 9-(9-phenyl-10-oxo)anthranyl, trimethylsilyl, isopropyldimethylsilyl, *t*-butyldimethylsilyl, *t*-butyldimethylsilyl, tribenzylsilyl, and triisopropylsilyl.
  - 6. The method of claim 3, wherein PG is tetrahydropyranyl.

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- 7. The method of claim 3, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of methyllithium, *n*-butyllithium, *tert*-butyllithium, *sec*-butyllithium, phenyllithium, phenyl potassium, lithium amide, sodium amide, potassium amide, lithium tetramethylpiperidide, lithium diisopropylamide, lithium diethylamide, lithium dicyclohexylamide, sodium hexamethyldisilazide, lithium hexamethyldisilazide, sodium hydride, and potassium hydride.
  - 8. A method for the synthesis of a compound of a formula III:

$$R^{1}$$
  $R^{2}$   $R^{3}$   $R^{4}$   $CH_{2}OH$   $CH_{2}OH$   $CH_{2}OH$ 

comprising contacting a compound of a formula VI

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$$R^{10}OC$$
 $(CH_2)_n$ 
 $(CH_2)_4$ 
 $(CH_2)_4$ 
 $(CH_2)_4$ 
 $(CH_2)_m$ 
 $COR^{10}$ 
 $VI$ 

with a reducing agent,

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wherein:

 $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, and benzyl; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group; or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group and  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the carbon to which they are attached are taken together to form a  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl group, with the proviso that none of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is  $-(CH_2)_{0-4}C\equiv CH$ ;

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 $R^{10}$  is independently selected from the group consisting of -H, -OH,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, - $(C_6)$ aryloxy, -O- $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, -O- $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, halo; and

n and m are independent integers ranging from 0 to 4.

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- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, borane, allane, lithium aluminum hydride, diisobutylaluminum hydride, and sodium borohydride.
- 30 10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of adding an aqueous proton source.